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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/526,106	03/15/2000	Robert F. Balint	PARE.002.01US	9164

7590 04/22/2002

Andrew A. Kumamoto
Cooley Godward, LLP
Five Palo Alto Square
3000 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2155

EXAMINER

FRIEND, TOMAS H F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1627

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/526,106	BALINT ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Tomas Friend	1627		

The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-21 and 42-62 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 22-41 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

Detailed Action

Change of Examiner

The examiner of this application has changed from T. Wessendorf to Tomas Friend.

Status of the Application

Receipt is acknowledged of a response to a restriction requirement on 25 January 2002 (Paper No. 10).

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-62 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-21 and 42-62 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 10.

Applicants' traversal of the restriction between Groups II and III is acknowledged and, in response to applicants' argument, Groups II and III have been rejoined. Claims 22-41 are pending and are subject to election of species requirements.

Election of Species

Upon further consideration the examiner of this application has determined that an election of species is required. The examiner regrets any delay or inconvenience that this may cause applicants and will work with applicants to expedite the prosecution of the application.

1. This application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention for each of the following A-D:

- A. ultimate species of marker protein (i.e. a specified protein, not a classification or family of proteins),
- B. species of signal (e.g. specific reaction, resistance to a specific antibiotic, etc.),
- C. species of N-terminal fragment, AND
- D. species of C-terminal fragment.

2. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for **EACH of A-D** for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 22-28 are generic.

3. The species are distinct, each from the other, because they have different chemical structures with different chemical, physical, and biological properties, are made using different starting materials and/or methods, and/or are used in different environments. Therefor, different issues of enablement and patentability apply to each species and each species represents patentably distinct subject matter.

4. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, **and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added**. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tomas Friend** at telephone number (703) 308-4548. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday 8:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jyothsna Venkat can be reached on (703) 308-2439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-2742.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist at (703) 308-1235.

Tomas Friend, Ph.D.

13 April 2002

J. Venkat
JYOHTHSNA VENKAT PH.D
JOY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600